

In the Claims:

All of the currently pending claims are listed below including any amendments proposed herein. Please cancel claims 2, 3, 18, 19 and 28 as indicated without prejudice. Please also amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer network user interface, comprising:
a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another; and
graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment;
wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies by chatting such that a message is displayed within the graphical spatial context in proximity of the proxy associated with the user generating the message.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The user interface of claim 1 3, wherein all users within a neighborhood of the user generating the a message view the message ~~text~~.

5. (Currently amended) The user interface of claim 4, wherein the message is displayed in comprehensible text only to designated users.

6. (Original) The user interface of claim 5, wherein the message is displayed to non-designated users as nonsense text.

7. (Currently amended) The user interface of claim 1 3, wherein text messages are displayed for a duration of time before being displayed in a scrolling transcription of conversations between users.

8. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein users interact with one another in accordance with user character traits assigned to the proxies representing each user.

9. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein said network browsing environment comprises a shared multiple browser format.

10. (Original) The user interface of claim 9, wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space.

11. (Currently amended) A computer network system, comprising:
one or more network servers each comprising a processor and a memory;
one or more network clients connected with the network servers each comprising, a processor, memory, a display, and a network connector; and
a network user interface, comprising,
a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another; and
graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment;

wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies by chatting such that a message is displayed within the graphical spatial context in proximity of the proxy associated with the user generating the message.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said network browsing environment comprises a shared multiple browser format.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said landscape sheet is divided into sections at regular intervals, said section comprising virtual rooms for chatting.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein an area of interest around each particular user is defined and the intersection of the area of interest around each user and the sections defines the chat rooms in which the user is present.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein a plurality of levels of chat rooms are provided such that when the number of users present in a level exceeds a given threshold, an additional level is allocated as a separate chat room for additional users in the same area of the landscape.

17. (Currently amended) A method, implemented on a computer system, for facilitating interaction of computer network browsers, comprising:

providing a computer network browsing environment said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another;
graphically representing users browsing the environment;
wherein said users interact with one another via said graphical representations (proxies) by chatting such that a message is displayed within the graphical spatial context in proximity of the proxy associated with the user generating the message.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 19, wherein all users within a neighborhood of the user generating the a message view the message ~~text~~.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the message is displayed in comprehensible text only to designated users.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the message is displayed to non-designated users as nonsense text.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 19, wherein text messages are displayed for a duration of time before being displayed in a scrolling transcription of conversations between users.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein users interact with one another in accordance with user character traits assigned to the proxies representing each user.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said network browsing environment comprises a shared multiple browser format.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space.

27. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied thereon relating facilitating interaction of computer network browsers, the computer-readable program code effecting the following steps within a computing system:

providing a computer network browsing environment said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another;

graphically representing users browsing the environment;

wherein said users interact with one another via said graphical representations (proxies) by chatting such that a message is displayed within the graphical spatial context in proximity of the proxy associated with the user generating the message.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein said users interact with one another in accordance with user character traits assigned to the proxies representing each user.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein said wherein said network browsing environment comprises a shared multiple browser format.

31. (Currently amended) A computer network user interface, comprising:
a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web pages to one another; and
graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment;
wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies by chatting such that a message is displayed within the graphical spatial context in proximity of the proxy associated with the user generating the message.